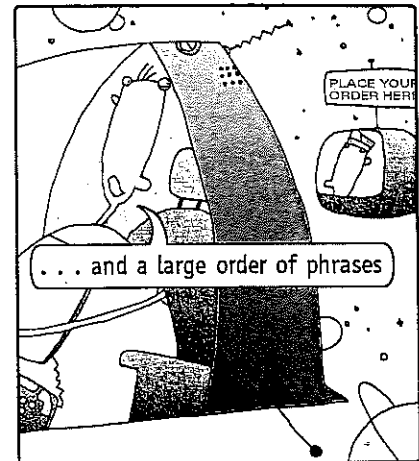


# Phrases

A phrase is a group of words that lacks a subject, a predicate, or both. In most cases, a phrase works as a modifier in a sentence. The most common type of phrase is the prepositional phrase. Every prepositional phrase begins with a preposition (*in, at, by, with, etc.*) and ends with the object of the preposition (the nearest noun or pronoun). In between may be words that modify the object of the preposition. Study the examples below and the ones in your handbook for more information. (Turn to 437.1-437.2 and 455.1-455.3 in *Write Source 2000*.)



## EXAMPLES

Our trip to North Dakota was great.

(preposition: *to*; object: *North Dakota*; phrase modifies: *trip*)

We stopped at many drive-in restaurants.

(preposition: *at*; object: *restaurants*; phrase modifies: *stopped*)

## Directions

Underline the prepositional phrases in the sentences that follow. Circle each preposition. Draw an arrow to each object of a preposition. (The number of prepositional phrases is listed in parentheses after each sentence.) The first sentence has been done for you.

1. Early (in) the morning, the Phillips family left (for) the airport. (2)
2. They waited at the busy airport to catch their flight to Disney World. (2)
3. During their wait, they talked about the special attractions at Epcot. (3)
4. Mikah desperately wanted to see all of the World Showcase, which features the cultures of 11 different countries. (2)
5. Epcot is an exciting and educational experience for everyone of every age. (2)

6. Operating on a tight budget, Mikah and Ruby's parents are determined not to spend too much money on this vacation. (2)
7. With a tour package, they were able to save money on entrance passes to Disney World. (3)
8. Ruby has been dreaming about this magical vacation for years. (2)
9. The Phillips will be vacationing in Disney World for five days. (2)

**Directions**

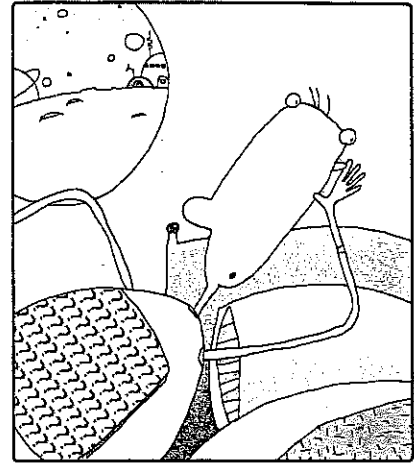
Write 4 sentences below about a trip you took (or would like to take). Underline the prepositional phrases, circle the prepositions, and draw an arrow to each object of a preposition.

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Prepositions

Prepositions such as *at*, *about*, *by*, *for*, *in*, *of*, *on*, and *to*, among others, have been used in our language for well over 1,400 years. Prepositions are words that show position or direction. They also introduce prepositional phrases.

Prepositional phrases are an indispensable part of our language. (*Indispensable* means we can't do without them.) Just think how sentences, such as the examples below, would read without the prepositional phrases. There wouldn't be much left, would there? (Turn to 455.1-455.3 in *Write Source 2000* for more information.)



## EXAMPLES

*Prepositional Phrases:*

Write every day in a personal journal.

Begin writing with a particular idea in mind.

## Directions

Underline all of the prepositional phrases in the journal entry below. *Caution:* Do not underline infinitives as prepositional phrases! The first one has been done for you.

1 April 12

2 I was late for my guitar lesson tonight. Usually, I'm at the studio

3 by 6:30, but I was late because of my cat Tom. He ran away

4 during last night's storm. I looked everywhere for him.

5 I looked in the garage because there are lots of little niches in there.

6 I looked in the laundry room because cats usually like to curl up

7 in warm, soft places. I finally headed outside and even looked in the trees.

8 Tom just wasn't to be found, so I stopped looking. After supper, I heard a

9 purr in my room. Leave it to a cat to be unpredictable. I found Tom

10 under the bed.

**Directions**

Rewrite the following sentences so that each begins with a prepositional phrase. Place a comma after the phrase if you think one is needed to make the meaning of the sentence clear. The first one has been done for you.

1. Dogs are often used as companions in modern nursing homes.

*In modern nursing homes, dogs are often used as companions.*

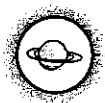
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2. Many people in nursing homes think of the resident dog as their very own pet.
- 
- 

3. Some residents leave out special treats for the dog's daily visit.
- 
- 

4. Golden retrievers are suitable pets according to some staff members.
- 
- 

5. The nurses usually walk the dogs between shifts.
- 
- 



Next Step Write a story starter, similar to the one below, using a two-word preposition from the list at 455.3 in your *Write Source 2000* handbook. (Share your results.)

***Together with her friend, Elisha was a curious young lady.  
One foggy September evening, her curiosity led to . . .***